

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 05643 241417Z

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ACTION SS-25

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O 241400Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WAHSDC IMMEDIATE 3259

S E C R E T KINSHASA 5643

EXDIS

FROM VANCE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR CG US PINS

SUBJECT: VANCE MISSION: US PRESS GUIDANCE

1. WE NOTE THAT VOA ENGLISH LANGUAGE NEWSCAST MORNING JUNE 24 CARRIED RECAP OF ZAIRE COUP PLOT AND DENIALS BY US OFFICIALS THAT US INVOLVED OR THAT GOZ HAS PRODUCED EVIDENCE OF US COMPLICITY.

2. AS ALREADY REPORTED, PRESIDENT MOBUTU IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE ABOUT OUR DENIALS, AND AT MY MEETING WITH HIM THIS MORNING (JUNE 24) HE AGAIN EXPRESSED CONCERN, THIS TIME ABOUT ASST SECRETARY DAVIS' REPORTED STATEMENT TO THE PRESS IN NAIROBI TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOZ HAD NOT PRODUCED ANY EVIDENCE.

3. WHILE I FULLY UNDERSTAND VALIDITY OF OUR POSITION AND NEED TO MAKE OUR INNOCENCE CLEAR TO MEDIA, FACT IS THAT MOBUTU IS OBVIOUSLY BOTHERED BY THESE STATEMENTS, MOST PROBABLY BECAUSE OF THE IMPLICATION THEY CARRY REGARDING HIS OWN CREDIBILITY.

4. I THINK IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE SUCCESS OF MY MISSION HERE THAT WE MINIMIZE TO EXTENT POSSIBLE STATEMENTS WHICH CAN BE SEEN HERE AS PUBLIC CHALLENGES TO HIM. INSTEAD, I THINK WE SHOULD HENCEFORTH, IF

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SECRET

PAGE 02 KINSHA 05643 241417Z

ANYTHING MORE HAS TO BE SAID NOW, TRY TO ACCENTUATE

THE POSITIVE, I.E., THAT I AM HERE IN KINSHASA IN THE
PROCESS OF SORTING OUT THESE MATTERS OF MUTUAL CONCERN.

5. IF DEPT CONCURS, SUGGEST ACTION TO TAKEN TO ASSURE
THAT APPROPRIATE GUIDANCE BE ISSUED ALONG THESE LINES.
ANDREW

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NNN

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